

VisiBuilding BAA06-04

Frequently Asked Questions (last updated on 1 December 2005)

Proposal Preparation:

How many companies/agencies can form a team?

The team size and composition is up to the proposer. The team should provide expertise across the range of technologies specified by the proposal.

Do we submit cost proposals for Phases II & III?

Phase I must be fully costed. Phases II and III should be described as distinct and separately funded options to follow Phase I if the performer's concept and execution plan are selected to continue. Phases II and III should have a preliminary costing of the design, development, and demonstration of their concept as currently envisioned that will be updated in the Proposal Update deliverable at the end of the prior Phase.

Can a Team/Company submit multiple proposals if they have multiple approaches to meeting the VisiBuilding requirements?

Multiple proposals can be considered from performers or subcontractors. However, any dependencies on other proposals should be clearly noted in each related proposal.

What Type of contract will these be?

Offerors should propose an award type that they deem appropriate for that phase of the effort. This BAA affords proposers the choice of submitting proposals for the award of a Grant, Cooperative Agreement, Procurement Contract, Technology Investment Agreement, Other Transaction for Prototype Agreement, or other such appropriate award instrument. The Government reserves the right to negotiate the type of award instrument determined appropriate under the circumstances.

Are FFRDCs and government laboratories able to participate?

FFRDCs may submit proposals to perform as prime contractors if authorized by statute. To the extent that a proposer would like to submit a proposal with a FFRDC as a subcontractor, the proposer must provide rationale in its proposal that the FFRDC has a unique capability that is not otherwise available in industry. If there are special circumstances that affect how you can team with other organizations, please contact the program manager via visibuilding@darpa.mil.

Does the 30 page limit include any Bibliography?

Yes.

Will there be any additional reports/technical information GFE prior to the due date of the proposals?

No.

Technical:

You have mostly talked about radars. Is that the only approach you will consider? Would approaches using non-radar sensors be acceptable?

VisiBuilding is open to alternate non-radar sensing modes that can be used from the exterior of the building, subject to the technical goals outlined in the BAA and the PIP.

How much actual sensor development will you be willing to fund under VisiBuilding? Do you see this as more a processing program than a hardware program?

Sensor *architecture* will play a large part in VisiBuilding, but it is not expected that significant effort should be extended in breaking new ground in the sensor design itself (e.g., conformal arrays, new antenna designs, etc.). However, a hardware sensor demonstration system will be required by Phase II to demonstrate the signal processing reconstruction approaches developed in the program.

Is there a minimum speed for the vehicle carrying the sensor? Is there a restriction on either the number of passes a vehicle can make past a target, or the number of vehicles that can be used against a single target?

All sensor configurations will be judged on the overall versatility and discreteness of the approach. This will enable a broader range of CONOPS to be considered.

Would you be willing to fund a novel approach, even if the CONOPS was not fully worked out?

Novel approaches are encouraged, but it is the proposer's best interest to consider how these technologies will ultimately fit into a system concept. Providing end-to-end capability is required.

When will the military utility of an approach, as presented in the CONOPS, be evaluated to determine the selection of an approach? Will any 'End Users' be part of the evaluation process?

As with all DARPA programs, it is essential to plan how this program will transition to the military user. Therefore, military S&T leads and users will be interested in the program from its conception. Military users will become increasingly involved as the program matures.

What buildings will be imaged, and where will they be?

Building locations will be provided by DARPA during Phase II of the program.

Buildings will be relatively simple two- or three-story structures on the order of 3,000-5,000 square feet (~270-450 square meters). For travel planning purposes, assume they are at domestic sites requiring travel greater than 1000 miles.

How many sides of the building will one be able to access?

You can have complete sensor access around the building being examined. However, you may choose to show system robustness using less coverage (e.g., accessing a single wall).

Security:

What are the security restrictions for VisiBuilding?

Currently, VisiBuilding is unclassified. Classified proposals will be accepted.

Is foreign participation allowed?

Currently, foreign participation is permitted in Phase I. As the technology matures in Phases II and III, the VisiBuilding program may include information controlled under the International Traffic in Arms Regulation (ITAR), 22 CFR 120-130. Therefore contractors may be required to protect information pursuant to ITAR and are encouraged to consider this when proposing.

Reporting:

Will all the teams attend each others Quarterly reviews?

Quarterly reviews will be held at the performer's facility and will be closed to other teams. Annual technical interchange meetings (TIMs) may be held where program developments may be shared across the performer base.